

## CLAIMS

1. (Original) A method comprising:  
fixing a logical identifier for a signal line at an egress interface;  
mapping a first physical identifier for a first physical signal line to the logical identifier;  
and  
remapping a second physical identifier for a second physical signal line to the logical identifier responsive to a line failure on the first physical signal line.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein mapping comprises:  
writing to a cross connect table and wherein remapping comprises rewriting the cross connect table.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
switching a signal from a second physical signal line to a physical line corresponding to the logical identifier responsive to the remapping.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein fixing comprises:  
assigning an identifier to each port of the egress interface during initialization; and  
preventing change to the identifier after initialization.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the signal line is a synchronous optical networking (SONET) line.
6. (Original) An apparatus comprising:  
a bus interface;  
An egress time slot interchange (ETSI) module;  
a switch fabric coupled to the ETSI module;  
an egress time slot interchange (ETSI) module having a plurality of inputs, each input assigned a logical identifier which remains fixed after initialization; and  
a translation module to translate an incoming signal identifier to one of the logical identifiers independent of a physical line on which the signal is received.
7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the translation module comprises:  
a cross connect table.
8. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 6 further comprising:  
a bus coupled to the bus interface;  
a termination module coupled to the bus; and

a line interface having an optical to electrical (O/E) and electrical to optical (E/O) converter.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the apparatus is implemented as an ASIC on a backplane of a line card.